Speaker: Pete Nanos (10-15 minutes)
Event: Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off
Time: 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2003
Place: Administration Building Auditorium
Agenda:

- Introduction by Lisa Gutierrez (safety, security, HHM)
- Color Guard
- National Anthem by Frances Castellano
- Opening remarks and introduction of Director Nanos by Senaida Madrid, HDWG Chair
- Pete Nanos remarks (Hispanic contributions at LANL, Past, Present and Future) and introduction of Vann Bynum
- Vann Bynum remarks (Hispanic contributions to QUAL-1 program)
- Introduction of Dr. Cipriano Vigil by Rebecca Cordova HDWG Vice Chair
- Musical Presentation: Dr. Cipriano Vigil
- Closing Remarks by Senaida Madrid, HDWG Chair

Talking Points:

1. Welcome Guests to Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off

This year's national theme is: "Hispanic Americans: Honoring our Past, Surpassing our Present, and Leading our Future." As fate would have it, the HHM theme is very consistent with our 60th Anniversary theme, which is to "Acknowledge the past, accept the present, and Embrace the future."

- Hispanic Heritage Month runs from Sept. 15 to Oct 15. This is a great opportunity for us all to learn more about one of the great cultures of New Mexico and how it has contributed to the world in which we live. My expectation is that more of the LANL population will make time to develop awareness and understanding of our different employees by attending heritage events sponsored by the Diversity Office, the DAAB, and Diversity Working Groups. I believe the second HHM event is scheduled for October 7th where LANL will be hosting a talk from one of our community stakeholders, Dr. Carlos Ramirez, President of UNM-LA.Based on a recommendation by John Huang, this year the HDWG and I have chosen to recognize and honor Hispanic contributions to the LANL mission in an effort to provide an awareness of the vital role that our Hispanic workers have played at LANL since 1943. I was excited about this recognition because of the connections to our core values of service to the nation, integrity, passion for excellence and innovation, personal accountability, respect for others and teamwork.

- Every single person has a different way of looking at the problems we face. By approaching problem solving from many different perspectives, we have a better chance of finding the optimum solution. The Laboratory enjoys a synergy that would be noticeably absent if it were not for Hispanics and the many diverse cultures and perspectives that workers bring to our national security mission.

2. How Hispanic employees contribute to Laboratory

- The Hispanic community has contributed to the success of the Laboratory for all of the past 60 years. They not only bring professional expertise and skills to just about every job category we have at the Laboratory, but they also bring a rich cultural heritage. Notably, Oppenheimer fell in love with this New Mexico cultural heritage and was the catalyst for bringing together a diverse group of workers who all had a passion for helping the nation to work together 60 years ago. We have Hispanic workers in practically every discipline practiced at the Laboratory, and we've depended upon those contributions to help the Laboratory accomplish its mission.

- Hispanics have been a vital part of the Laboratory's leadership since its inception, starting with:

    - Luis W. Alvarez as the first Hispanic Group Leader in 1944. Luis Alvarez (1911–1988) was a Mexican American physicist with wide-ranging interests. His colleagues sometimes called him the "prize wild idea man" because of the huge range of his activities. He did research into the atomic nucleus, light, electrons, radar, and so forth. In 1943 he was part of the Manhattan Project and developed a detonating device for the atomic bomb. He was aboard a research plane that circled Hiroshima immediately after the Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb. He was shocked and sickened by what he saw, but in his autobiography he indicated he was sure the two bombs—at Hiroshima and Nagasaki—shortened the war and saved many American and Japanese lives. In fact, he was one of a few scientists who worked on the bomb who felt the U.S. should continue weapons development. He continued to do varied work in high-energy physics and in 1968, received the Nobel Prize. In 1965 Alvarez took his physics expertise on an archeological expedition. A U.S. – Egyptian team was trying to find hidden chambers in the Giza pyramid in Egypt by using subatomic particles to calculate the pyramid's density. They were able to demonstrate that there were no hidden chambers in the pyramid.

    - Alvarez later began working with his son Walter, a geology professor at UC-Berkeley. Together they developed a theory in 1980 that a giant asteroid struck Earth and killed off the dinosaurs around 65 million years ago. They had strong geologic evidence, but the theory is still being debated. Alvarez used his physics expertise to assist the Warren Commission in investigating the assignation of President Kennedy. He held 22 patents, including an indoor golf-training machine he developed for President Eisenhower. Alvarez died of cancer in 1988.

    - The Hispanic Diversity Working Group has prepared a poster detailing the accomplishments of Luis Alvarez. Copies of the poster will be sent to each Division for display during Hispanic Heritage Month.

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS ARE FROM OEO'S 2003 AAP BINDER. ANY CORRECTIONS WOULD NEED TO COME FROM OEO DIRECTLY:

- As of June 30, there are approximately 3,000 Hispanic employees at LANL
- Approximately 240 Hispanic TSMs
- Approximately 245 Hispanics in leadership positions:
    - Top Management = 7
    - TSM Group Level Management = 32
    - SSM Group Level Management = 20
    - SSM Supervisors = 68
    - Tec Supervisors = 43
    - OS/GS Supervisors = 14
    - TSM Supervisors = 57
    - TSM Chief of Staff = 2
    - TSM Senior Advisor = 1
- Approximately 100 Hispanic PhDs at LANL
    - The Laboratory has several "grow our own" initiatives aimed at increasing the number of Hispanics and other minority groups in the scientific and technical pools from which the Lab hires.
    - LANL works with area schools to improve the quality of math and science education in an attempt to lure more students into technical fields and prepare them to enter college. STB's Math & Science Academy is having a positive impact on developing teachers who in turn will be able to affect about 1000 students in their math and science teaching careers.

3. In a few minutes, Richard Vann Bynum, Deputy Associate Director for Weapons Engineering & Manufacturing, will talk about the contributions Hispanic and other workers have made to the success of the QUAL 1 Program. I want to thank John Huang, now of NIS-5, for making sure we were aware of the tremendous contributions made by Hispanic employees to this project. Through an e-mail, he made me personally aware of the dedication, loyalty, hard work (often under adverse conditions), ingenuity, and craftsmanship that they contributed to the success of QUAL 1. Thank you, John, for walking the talk on a number of our core values: respect for others and teamwork.

4. Thanks and keep up the good work. Now let me turn it over to Vann Bynum…